Chapter 9: Subject-Verb Agreement

8th Grade English

Lesson 1: Agreement in Number

* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with its \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ refers to whether a words is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + A word that refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ person, place, thing, idea, action or condition is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + A word that refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than one is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Singular and Plural Subjects
  + Singular \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take singular \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - Marla works cooperatively with her classmates.
    - She listens carefully to their suggestions.
  + Plural \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ take plural \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - The players work together well as a team.
    - They listen carefully to the coach.
  + Most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that end in –s or –es are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Verb Phrases
  + In a verb \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ helping verb that needs to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - A verb \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is made up of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verb and one or more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verbs.
      * Lou has volunteered for the teen hotline.
      * He is answering calls from troubled kids.
      * Callers have asked for help.
      * They have been seeking advice from their peers.
* Contractions *Doesn’t* and *Don’t*
  + Two \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we often use are *doesn’t* and *don’t*.
  + Use \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subjects except *I* and *you*.
  + Use \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with all \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subjects and with the pronouns *I* and *you*.
    - Tiffany doesn’t attend folk concerts.
    - You don’t like to shop.
    - They don’t enjoy noisy, crowded malls.

Lesson 2: Compound Subjects

* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subject is made up of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subjects joined by a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ such as *and, or,* or *nor*.
* Subjects Joined by *And*
  + A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subject whose parts are joined by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ usually takes a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verb.
    - Career counselors and employers match people with the right jobs.
  + Sometimes a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subject joined by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ refers to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thing or idea, so a singular \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is used.
    - Law and order appeals strongly to Victoria.
* Subjects Joined by *Or* or *Nor*
  + When the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ subject are joined by *or* or *nor*, the verb should \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the part \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to it.
    - Neither outdoor work nor office tasks suit Matt very well.
    - Neither office tasks nor outdoor work suits Matt very well.

Lesson 3: Agreement Problems in Sentences

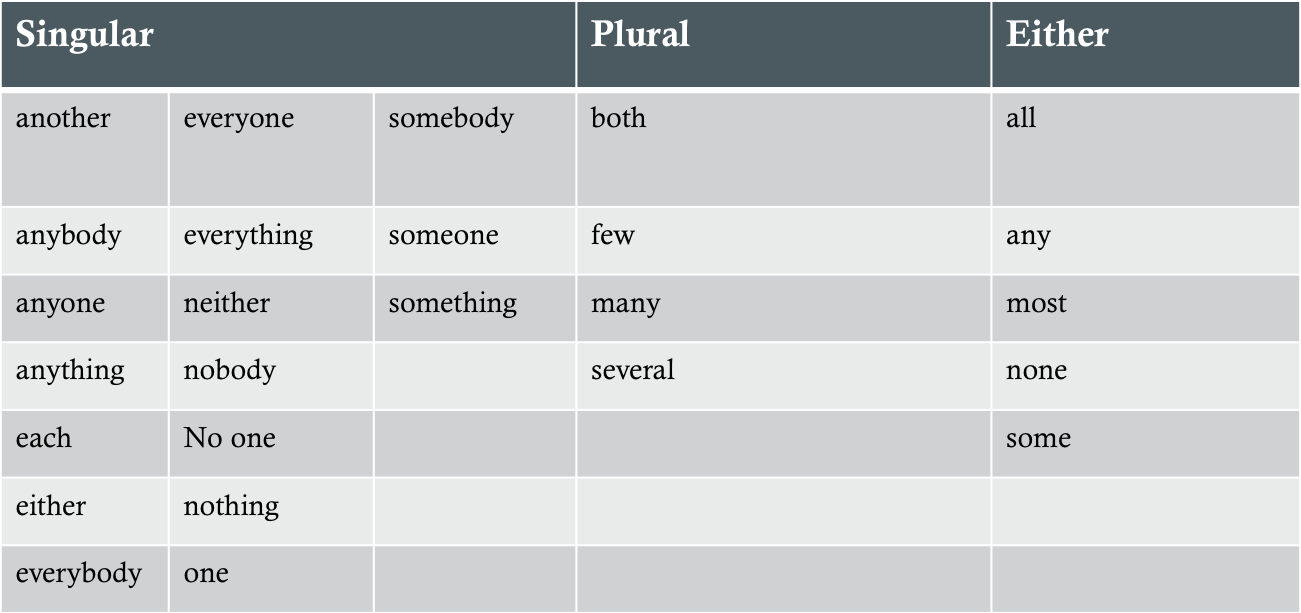
* Some sentences can be tricky, such as those with subjects in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ positions, those containing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nouns, or those in which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ phrases separate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Subjects in Unusual Positions
  + A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a verb or part of a verb \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, a sentence beginning with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or a sentence in which an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is placed first.
* Subjects in Unusual Positions

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| **Type of Sentence** | **Example** |
| Question | Does birth order shape personality? |
| Sentence beginning with *here* or *there* | Here are some famous first-borns with successful careers. |
| Sentence beginning with a phrase | From years of study come our ideas about birth order. |

* The following tips can help you find the subject in one of these kinds of sentences.
* (IS/ARE) last-borns more rebellious than middle children?
  + Turn the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ around, putting the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - Last borns (is/are) more rebellious than middle children.
  + Determine whether the subject is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - Last-borns (plural)
  + Make sure the subject and verb agree.
    - Last borns are more rebellious than middle children.
* Predicate Nouns
  + In a sentence containing a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ noun, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ should agree with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, not the predicate noun.
    - One interesting topic is dreams and their meaning.
    - Dreams are the voice of the subconscious.
* Prepositional Phrases
  + The subject of a verb is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ found in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ phrase.
  + Don’t be fooled by words that come \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a subject and a verb.
  + Mentally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out these words.
    - This book by two psychologists describes personality traits.
    - Some theories of personality development are complex.

Lesson 4: Indefinite Pronouns as Subjects

* Some pronouns do not refer to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, person, place, thing, or idea.
* These pronouns are called \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pronouns.
* When used as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, some indefinite pronouns are always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, some are always \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and others can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, depending on how they’re used.
* Indefinite Pronouns



* Singular \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pronouns take singular \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + Everyone wonders how twins get along.
  + Anything about twins fascinates me.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ indefinite pronouns take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verbs.
  + Many of my friends know a pair of twins.
  + Several are twins themselves.
* Singular or Plural?
  + The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pronouns *all, any, most, none*, and *some* can be either \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + When you use one of these words as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, think about the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it refers to.
    - If the noun is singular, use a singular verb.
    - If it is plural, use a plural verb.
  + Most of this book deals with twin research.
  + All of the studies have been conducted by scientists.

Lesson 5: Problem Subjects

* When \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nouns, nouns ending in –s, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ expressions are used as subjects, it can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to tell whether they’re singular or plural.
* Collective Nouns
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nouns are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of people or things.
  + Common collective nouns: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Many collective nouns can take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verbs.
    - When a collective noun refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or things \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it takes a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verb.
      * The choir performs each year in the talent show.
    - When a collective noun refers to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or things acting as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it takes a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verb.
      * The choir come from different schools.
* Singular Nouns Ending in –S
  + Some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that end in –s or –ics look \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ but are actually \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - When used as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, they take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verbs.
    - Singular nouns with Plural Forms: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  + Politics attracts people with strong leadership qualities.
  + The weekend news features local personalities.
* Titles
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of works of art, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and music are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - Even a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ consisting of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ noun takes a singular \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
      * *The Outsiders* is a popular young-adult novel
* Measures and Amounts
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that express \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, measures, numbers, and lengths of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are often treated as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
    - They take \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verbs when they refer to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rather than numbers of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ terms.
    - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: three cups, forty miles
      * Three pounds is the approximate weight of an adult human’s brain.
    - Amounts: two hours, eight dollars
      * Five hours is a long time to wait for lunch.
* Measures and Amounts, cont.
  + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ can take a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ verb, depending on whether they refer to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ part or to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of items.
    - One-tenth of the brain’s cells are lost during a lifetime.
    - One-half of the cerebrum controls the body’s left side.